

Town of Chebeague Community Advisory Response Team

Advisory to the Board of Selectmen

Melissa Yosua-Davis and David Hill Co Chairs

March 26, 2020

Dear Community Partner:

On March 25, 2020 the Chebeague Board of Selectmen voted to establish a citizens advisory committee to work with the Town and the larger island community to identify needs that may exist within the community, to suggest ways to address those needs, and to implement plans approved by the Board of Selectmen relating to the Global Pandemic. While its work will be completed when the Global Pandemic ends, it may serve as a model for a future standing committee.

The team will be chaired by David Hill and Melissa Yosua-Davis. Mary Holt will assist the chairs and the committee with organizational tasks. Bev Johnson and Leila Bisharat will lead the Communication and Outreach efforts. Accurate and timely dissemination of information is one of the committee's primary goals. Community involvement will be solicited as needed.

The purpose of this committee is to avoid duplication of effort within the community, to enable the sharing of resources, and to ensure that municipal, transportation, and community needs are addressed in an efficient and timely manner during this time of uncertainty. The committee is advisory to the Board of Selectmen. The Selectmen have pledged to address requests in timely manner.

Membership in this committee is entirely optional but we would like to offer your organization a seat at the table. Please email Donna Damon publicservantone@gmail.com by Monday at 6 pm if your organization would like to participate, and submit the name and the contact information of your representative. We all wear many hats, so it is alright to have one person represent more than one organization.

The first meeting of the committee will be held virtually via ZOOM at 1pm on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Once you have appointed a representative, we will contact that person with sign in information.

Thanks for all you do for your neighbors on Chebeague.

Sincerely,

The Chebeague Board of Selectmen

RESOLUTION From the Chebeague Island Board of Selectmen 3/25/2020

The Town of Chebeague Island is following State and Federal guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus. We ask that all individuals, public entities and businesses follow CDC guidance as well.

What Should I do?

Wash your hands frequently especially when returning home.

When outside your home practice **social distancing**, maintaining a **distance of 6 feet from any other individual near you**. We also encourage people go outside by themselves for fresh air and exercise.

Shelter-in-Place: Stay at home as much as you can to avoid contact with other members of the community. For anyone returning to Chebeague after travel and/or after proximity to large groups, **please shelter-in-place for 14 days**.

Travel to and from the mainland **only for essential reasons**. We need to protect our local essential services (access to food, health care, fuel, etc.), and “flatten the curve”. Each trip to/from the mainland increases the potential for exposure. Across the world the definition of essential has changed as infection spreads. We can protect ourselves by being stringent with how we each define what our essential needs are. **Please stay home as much as you can**.

If you must travel, ferry commuters must follow all the guidelines of the Chebeague Transportation Company and Casco Bay Lines to prevent the spread of the coronavirus while traveling to and from the island. Once on island commuters must follow the CDC’s coronavirus guidelines, especially **social distancing** at all times.

Any individual from the mainland who suspects that he/she may have come in contact with someone with the coronavirus or is not feeling well should immediately shelter in place (do not travel to Chebeague) and call your doctor.

Any individual on the island who suspects that he/she may have come in contact with someone with the coronavirus or is not feeling well should immediately shelter in place and contact your doctor for further instructions.

Assistance: We recognize these recommendations require hardships. There are a number of state and federal programs that remain available and are being designed specifically to provide assistance for hardships experienced as a result of the coronavirus. We will continue to update information about the resources available on our website.

DRAFT 03/27/2020

Memorandum

From: Town of Chebeague Island Board of Selectmen
To: The Board of Directors
RE: COVID-19 Response
Date: 3/27/2020

The Board of Selectmen are very concerned about the current CTC policy related to COVID-19 for suspected exposure and for EMS transport.

“If you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, it is imperative for the safety of our crew members and other passengers that you do not use the ferry. CTC will not transport passengers who suspect they have COVID-19. Alternative means of travel to the mainland will be arranged by emergency responders, available 24/7 by calling 911.”

Suggesting to the public that they should use 911 to transport asymptomatic individuals because they believe they may have been exposed is very likely to create an undue burden on our EMS staff and limited resources. Transport of these individuals should follow CDC guidance to contact their doctors, eliminate unnecessary travel and practice social distancing. CTC should develop a plan consistent with this guidance.

The Town has investigated options for other transport and our understanding is that CTC has as well. However, there remains no safer more expedient way to transport an EMS patient than the Independence. We will continue to pursue other options.

The Board feels it is imperative that we immediately re-open the communications channels between CTC and Town. We understand that John Rent and Matt Ridgeway from CTC are will to meet with representatives of the Town. We are appointing Chief Munroe, Marjorie Stratton, Jay Corson and David Hill from The Board of Selectman. We recommend that these individuals have the authority to negotiate in good faith to develop and implement a transport protocol for the transport of COVID-19 patients.

The Town has been actively working to document how EMS response teams will implement Maine EMS protocols and Maine CDC guidance on the Independence. Chief Munroe has been in contact with Maine CDC to confirm that proposed protocols are adequate, and CTC has been made aware of the details.

The Board of Selectmen respectfully request that CTC immediately rescind and revise its policy to allow the transport of EMS and to encourage the use of the 911 system for medical emergency response. And that the team identified above begin work immediately to complete the work of developing a joint protocol for the transport of COVID-19 patients.

The Town stands ready to assist CTC in any way we can to help provide the safe transport of all our citizens to the mainland.